

Institutional Strengthening Experts Needed for Short-Term Assignment in Chile

OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) seeks individuals with the following expertise for a detail in Chile:

- Leadership experience in a government reorganization effort
- Extensive knowledge of the roles and functions of DOI and other US government environmental agencies at both the field and headquarters levels
- Experience leading biodiversity management programs at the field and headquarter levels
- Experience navigating the politics of biodiversity management, especially Bureau-Department and Bureau-Bureau relationships
- Strong grasp of the relevant literature and principles of government organization, reorganization and institutional development

BACKGROUND

DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program currently operates across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of State, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

DOI manages over 200 million hectares of federal land, including national parks, refuges, multiple-use lands, recreation areas, dams, and historic sites. DOI has eight technical bureaus, including the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, which are the U.S. Government's lead agencies for protected area and biodiversity management. DOI is in a unique position to exchange lessons learned and best practices for institutional strengthening with Chile's counterpart Ministry of the Environment in preparation for the proposed creation of a Chilean Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service.

In October 2010, Chile created a new Ministry of the Environment to consolidate functions previously spread between various government bodies. The new Ministry of the Environment will contain three functional bureaus: the Superintendency of the Environment, responsible for enforcement environmental laws, the Environmental Evaluation Service, responsible for environmental evaluations and assessments, and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service. While the Superintendency, Environmental Evaluation Service, and other new components of the Ministry of the Environment have been created by law, the legislation to create a Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service is pending. The new Service would consolidate authority for biodiversity and protected areas currently spread among several government agencies.

ASSIGNMENT

Specialists will conduct several assignments of approximately one to two weeks in Chile and in Washington, DC. Significant planning and coordination time will be required at the home duty station for pre-trip preparation, and additional time will be necessary for post-trip follow-up.

The specialist will assist in strengthening institutional capacity in Chile's new Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service by exchanging technical information and best practices on:

- Coordination of responsibilities within the new Chilean Biodiversity Service and counterpart bureaus in the Department of the Interior
- Coordinating with other relevant environmental entities
- Management of protected areas
- Institutional arrangements for improved implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Strengthening technical capacity in a variety of specializations
- Enforcement of natural resource and biodiversity related laws

The topics for technical exchange will be further defined in consultation with the government of Chile.

SCHEDULE

The assignments are expected to occur over the course of the next two years, with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, and Chilean partners.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES

All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background materials will be provided to the selected individuals prior to the assignment. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP staff on preparation and follow-up via phone and email. Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the specialist will provide DOI-ITAP with a brief draft report focusing on the trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future assistance.

COSTS

DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals and incidentals, immunizations, etc.).

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

Persons wishing to be considered for these assignments should have the following qualifications:

- Current or retired DOI employee or other federal or state government employee (preference given to current or retired DOI employees)
- Technical expertise in the areas listed above under the "Opportunity" heading
- Extensive leadership experience
- Interpersonal and diplomacy skills to effectively collaborate with DOI, USAID, foreign governments, NGO partners, and other stakeholders
- Demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate with multiple partners and stakeholders
- Ability to provide practical, hands-on training and instruction
- Previous international experience desired
- Spanish language ability desired

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness-for-duty. Candidates selected for this assignment will be responsible for obtaining supervisor approval to participate in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

1. Send a resume
2. Send a cover letter, summarizing relevant work experience

Please submit applications via email to:

Jason Riley
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Tel: (202) 208-5224
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: jason_riley@ios.doi.gov

Please contact Cynthia Perera, DOI-ITAP Senior Program Manager (cperera@ios.doi.gov; 202/219-0537) with any questions.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

Application Process

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several months. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

This position is open to all applicants who meet the stated requirements.